

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02521 222110Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 HA-05 EB-08
COME-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 L-03 USSS-00 /076 W
-----081343 222120Z /73

R 221645Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2521

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJ: DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS CONCERNING MATSUMOTO
KIDNAPPING

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 2495, (B) STATE 127681

1. JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARIES NISHIMURA AND UENO ARRIVED
SAN SALVADOR AFTERNOON MAY 19 AND IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED
AMBASSADOR. MEETING WAS SET UP FOR MORNING MAY 20 AT
RESIDENCE WITH THE TWO JAPANESE SECRETARIES, AMBASSADOR AND
POLOFF.

2. NISHIMURA BEGAN DISCUSSION BY SHOWING AMBASSADOR POORLY
TYPED AND BADLY WORDED LIST OF DEMANDS FROM KIDNAPPING GROUP
(FARN) WHICH HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY MATSUMOTO FAMILY PREVIOUS
NIGHT. (NISHIMURA STATED THAT FAMILY WAS SAYING NOTHING
ABOUT DEMANDS, BUT THAT HE WOULD FURNISH EMBASSY WITH
COPY OR SUMMARY MAY 22.) FROM MEMORY, THERE ARE ABOUT
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FIVE BASIC DEMANDS. FIRST, RELEASE OF 22 POLITICAL
PRISONERS. PRISONERS WERE ASKED FOR BY NAME AND IN
TWO SEPARATE CATEGORIES. ONE GROUP OF NINE WERE PERSONS
WHO HAVE BEEN MISSING FOR SOME TIME AND SUBJECT OF
NUMEROUS PREVIOUS REQUESTS FOR RELEASE AND/OR INFORMATION
CONCERNING THEM BY VARIOUS GROUPS IN EL SALVADOR. (DR.
CARLOS MADRIZ AND LIL MILAGRO RAMIREZ WERE ON THIS

LIST.) GOES AND PRESIDENT ROMERO HAVE STEADFASTLY DENIED THAT IT IS HOLDING ANY POLITICAL PRISONERS. REMAINING THIRTEEN PRISONERS ARE, ACCORDING TO DEMAND, IN VARIOUS STAGES OF JUDICIAL PROCESS. RELEASED PRISONERS WERE TO BE TURNED OVER TO MEXICAN EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR AND THEN FLOWN TO MEXICO CITY (ACCOMPANIED BY MEXICAN AND JAPANESE AMBASSADORS) AND THEN TURNED OVER TO CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO.

3. SECOND CONDITION WAS GOES GRANTING GENERAL AMNESTY TO ALL PERSONS DETAINED UNDER LAW OF DEFENSE AND GUARANTEE OF PUBLIC ORDER IN RECENT DISTURBANCES SUCH AS SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN INCIDENT. THIRD CONDITION WAS DEROGATION OF LAW OF DEFENSE AND GUARANTEE OF PUBLIC ORDER. FOURTH WAS PUBLICATION OF MANIFESTO OF FARN IN ALL LOCAL MEDIA. FIFTH WAS PAYMENT OF RANSOM OF TEN MILLION COLONES (FOUR MILLION U.S. DOLLARS)--ONE-HALF TO BE IN U.S. DOLLARS AND ONE-HALF IN COLONES. SPECIFIC DENOMINATIONS AND AMOUNTS FOR BOTH COLONES AND DOLLARS WERE GIVEN.

4. AMBASSADOR AND POLOFF SPENT APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS PROVIDING BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE VARIOUS TERRORIST GROUPS IN EL SALVADOR, HISTORY OF PREVIOUS KIDNAPPINGS AND ASSASSINATIONS, PRESENT POLITICAL TENSIONS, PRESSURES ON PRESIDENT ROMERO, INADEQUACY OF GOES SECURITY FORCES IN THESE
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SITUATIONS, AND RELATED MATTERS. NISHIMURA STATED THAT GOJ WOULD PLAY ONLY BACKGROUND ROLE IN THIS MATTER, LEAVING NEGOTIATIONS TO MATSUMOTO'S FAMILY AND COMPANY (SYNTHETIC INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA). HE ADMITTED THAT MEETING ALL OR EVEN PART OF DEMANDS WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOES AND WOULD SET DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR ALL FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN AND EVEN JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, BUT GAVE CLEAR INDICATION THEY (NOT CLEAR WHETHER GOJ OR COMPANY) WERE PREPARED TO PAY FULL FOUR MILLION, IF REQUIRED, TO SECURE RELEASE OF MATSUMOTO. NISHIMURA AGREED THAT MOST PRACTICAL COURSE TO FOLLOW AT THIS POINT WOULD BE TO HAVE FAMILY CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS DIRECTLY AND ASSURE KIDNAPPERS THEY WERE DOING ALL THEY COULD TO MEET DEMANDS, WITH HOPE THAT FARN WOULD ACHIEVE PUBLICITY IT DESIRES AND THEN AGREE TO RELEASE FOR SOME NEGOTIATED RANSOM PAYMENT AND POSSIBLY MINOR CONCESSIONS ON PART OF GOES.

5. NISHIMURA THANKED AMBASSADOR FOR HIS TIME AND VALUABLE INFORMATION AND PROMISED TO KEEP U.S. EMBASSY INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED CONCERN OF U.S. FOR SAFETY OF MR MATSUMOTO AND ASSURED VISITORS THAT U.S. EMBASSY READY AND

WILLING TO ASSIST GOJ IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Errors: N/A
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